



Allandale Neighbor

Feb 2011
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DISTRIBUTED TO MORE THAN 3,100 HOMES BY THE ALLANDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Storm Drain Project Update

Stephanie Lott

Public Information Specialist Senior, City of Austin

Construction on a new storm drain system in the Allandale area has begun. This project will help reduce flooding in the neighborhood that is caused by an inadequate drainage system. In addition to the new storm drain lines, the City of Austin will also be upgrading some water and wastewater lines.

The contractor is Texas Sterling, and they are currently working in two places. The first is in the area of the outfall on Shoal Creek. The outfall is the end of the storm drain system, where the storm water that has been collected by the pipes will be released into the creek. The outfall will be located in the park near Bull Creek Road and Shoal Creek Blvd. Texas Sterling has also begun installing the new water line on Bull Creek Road, north of Allandale Road.

This is a major construction project and is expected to end in January 2012. Most of the work will be on Bull Creek Road., White Horse Trail and Nasco Drive.

For more information about the project, please visit the project web page at



Storm Drain Project work on Bull Creek near Koenig

www.cityofaustin.org/watershed/allandale_flood.htm or call one of the people listed below:

Jim Evans, Construction Inspector
512/974-1586

Greg Weems, Inspection Supervisor
512/974-1570

Tony Krauss, Project Manager
512/974-7138 ♦

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HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

The next ANA EC Meeting is February 24, 6:30 p.m., Fellowship and Education Building, Room 109, Covenant Presbyterian Church. The meeting is open to the public.

ANA is currently seeking volunteers for Allandale's Annual 4th of July Parade and other neighborhood events. Please contact Cynthia Keohane for opportunities at cbkeohane@prodigy.net.

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EDITOR Tom Linchan

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Allandale Neighbor,
PO Box 10886, Austin, TX 78766-1886
allandaleneighbor@gmail.com

ANA Executive Committee

PRESIDENT Cynthia Keohane
VICE PRESIDENT Peggy Jo Maceo
TREASURER Diane Swinney
SECRETARY Karen Knight
MEMBERS George Roman, Rob
Robinson, Sara Sternberg,
Dan Diener, Joi Chevalier,
Mat Thompson and Laura
DiCarlo

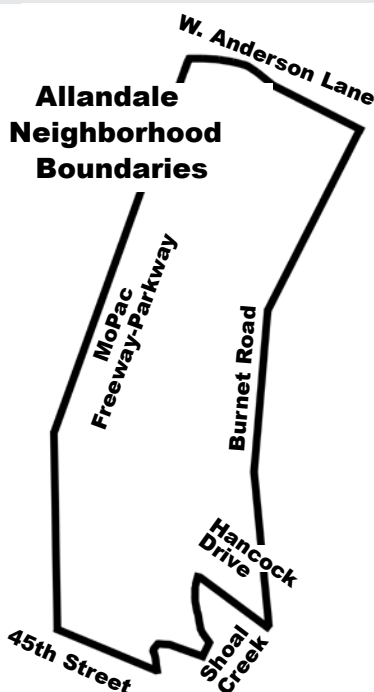
ANA General Meetings are held March and September
on the fourth Thursday.

Committees

BEAUTIFICATION Linnea Lemon
BYLAWS George Roman
COMMUNICATIONS Tom Linchan
MEMBERSHIP Dan Diener
NOMINATING (unassigned)
SAFETY Laura DiCarlo
ZONING AND PLANNING Paulette Kern

Allandale Police District Representatives

Officer Gary Griffin, 974-8392,
gary.griffin@ci.austin.tx.us
Officer Rolando Gutierrez, 974-5998,
Rolando.Gutierrez@ci.austin.tx.us



ANA President's Letter

Cynthia Keohane

The Allandale Neighborhood Association has moved its meeting room to Covenant Presbyterian Church's new Fellowship and Education Building, Room 109. The room can be entered using the outside stairs or ramp. The EC meets the last Thursday of the month, except in November and December, when the meeting is on the third Thursday. The full Allandale Neighborhood Association meets the fourth Thursday in March and September.

I hope your New Year's resolution includes joining ANA – if you haven't already joined – attending meetings when you can, and volunteering for events that interest you. We count on volunteers for crime watch, graffiti removal, event-planning, and so much more.

ANA EC is in the process of planning this year's events. We will continue our 50+ year tradition of the July 4 parade. We also are looking at smaller events, such as movie night. Other, larger events, such as a picnic, depend on many volunteers. Please watch the website or Yahoo group for more details, or email me at

cbkeohane@prodigy.net if you'd like to volunteer.

Allandale, like most of our surrounding neighborhoods, is an opt-in neighborhood for Restricted Parking Areas. Nearly

three years ago, the ANA Executive Committee voted to prohibit the parking of motorized vehicles on the front and side yards of single family residences. Specific ordinance requirements are in Section 12-5-29 of the City Code, available on the City of Austin website. It contains definitions for driveway, front and side yards, and motor vehicles. Note that the ordinance does apply to inoperable motor vehicles. The COA website also contains a map of Restricted Parking Areas, showing which neighborhoods have already opted in.

Special thanks to Laura DiCarlo for the graffiti clean-up and Peggy Maceo

for the tree-pruning seminar. And thanks to all the other volunteers who make this neighborhood great. ❖

We count
on volunteers
for crime watch,
graffiti removal,
event-planning, and
so much more

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Highlights from Allandale Neighborhood Association EC Meetings – December and January

Cynthia Keohane

December

Safety: Laura DiCarlo reported that the NW Park retention wall was tagged, and the graffiti was removed the next day.

Membership: Dan Diener reported that 2010 membership was about 375 households.

Short term home rental: The EC passed this motion: "WHEREAS the ANA EC agrees with the opinions of the STR committee that short term rentals violate city zoning code, and WHEREAS the ANA EC believes that STRs (less

than 30 days) are incompatible and harmful to family oriented neighborhoods, then BE IT RESOLVED that the charge to the STR committee is broadened to allow its chair and others deputized by the chair to contact city staff, city commissions, and other neighborhood associations on behalf of the ANA EC to gain their support for the ANA EC position on STR."

Nominating Committee: Joe Reynolds reported that the committee researched ANA bylaws and determined that a board member may serve out an elected term even if that extends board service past the three-year bylaw limitation. The committee subsequently asked George Roman and Cynthia Keohane to serve out their terms and they both agreed.

January

Nominating Committee: Diane Swinney introduced Joi Chevalier as the com-

mittee's nominee to replace Jason Kloc, who moved outside Allandale, and Joi was elected.

Short term home rental: The committee and other ANA members attended the City of Austin's Short Term Rental Stakeholders' Meeting, which was held 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. January 27, the night of the EC meeting. Tom Linehan was reporting for the Allandale Reporter.

ANC: Sara Sternberg was elected ANA representative to the ANC. As President, Cynthia is able to vote on ANC issues when Sara cannot attend the meeting.

Membership: Mat Thompson and Joi Chevalier volunteered to work on membership outreach, including contacting people who state an interest in volunteering when they pay dues.

Trees: Peggy Maceo reported that the tree pruning seminar was successful. It was attended by about 40 people and

Check out www.allandalereporter.org for additional articles and postings.

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made a little money.

Safety: Laura DiCarlo reported that the graffiti removal project went well.

Event-planning: The Fourth of July parade will be held. A picnic will be planned if we find a willing chair and enough volunteers for this labor-intensive effort. Other events under consideration

include a movie night and a pinewood derby.

New business: Allandale Northcross LP applied for an “adaptive reuse” development at 7685 Northcross Drive. This would convert 244 units into affordable housing by approximately November, 2013. ANA is researching requirements

to be considered an interested party, and ANA will file notice if we meet these requirements. The applicant states there will be a public hearing with at least 30 days advance notice. Contact is Sarah Andre, S2A Development Consulting, 698-3369, sarah@s2adevelopment.com. ❖

Regulations for Short Term Rentals are not Coming Anytime Soon

Tom Linehan

There is not much new to report with regard to efforts to do something about short-term rentals (STRs). The City is still in the information-gathering stage. I attended a Thursday evening Planning and Development Review Department public meeting on STRs held at the City’s offices at One Texas Center on January 27. The room was packed, with over 100 people in attendance. There were a number of short-term rental owners, all with testimonials of the value of their properties, and neighborhood representatives and STR neighbors wanting something done about these short-term rental properties in their neighborhoods that seem to be growing in popularity.

A number of Allandale residents were there. I recognized 10 people from Allandale at the meeting, including a couple who owns STR properties. Allandale residents Joe Reynolds, Donna Beth McCormick, Rob Robinson, and Maurice Anderson spoke in opposition to STRs. Donna Beth said she has owned long-term rental properties in the neighborhood for many years and has never had a problem with them. She said, “People want to know their neighbors. They are interested in preserving the quality of life in the neighborhood.” Short-term rentals, she said, “need to be studied and regulated.” People from other neighborhoods opposed to STRs complained about late night parties, traffic problems, lax code enforcement, parking problems, and, in one case, fireworks.

The STR owners came prepared. They

had stories about famous movie producers (Coen Brothers) and actors (Elijah Wood), as well as people visiting loved ones, using Austin STRs. They gave testimonials about the benefits of short-term rentals, which they say generate tax revenue, support local businesses, and are better maintained than long-term rentals. Many of the renters testifying said they have rules against parties in their rental agreements.

A bed and breakfast owner complained that the regulations for B&B owners are much stricter than ones for STRs and wanted that addressed.


There were 30 speakers signed up at the meeting and more wanting to get on the list. At the midway point of the meeting, the moderator strongly encouraged the remaining speakers to limit their remarks to new information and to not repeat what had been said.

The purpose of the meeting was for the City’s Planning and Review department to collect information and ideas from stakeholders. They encouraged people to continue to submit their comments to the department. In the meantime, someone suggested that people having problems with a STR should communicate it to the owner. It was clear that the City is still in the early stages of coming up with a solution that will



Short Term Rentals stakeholder meeting, January 27, 2011

address concerns about short-term rental properties in neighborhoods. ❖



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Allandale Crime: A Look at the Numbers for 2010

Tom Linehan

The number of Burglary of Residences (BORs) in Allandale was down last year, but the number of Burglary of Vehicles (BOVs) was up dramatically. Criminals stealing from cars was the top crime in the neighborhood in 2010, as it was in 2009. The number of BOVs increased 14% to 191 incidents, an average of 16 a month. Many of the incidents involved people stealing from cars in parking lots at businesses along Anderson Lane and Burnet Road. Nevertheless, there were a significant number of BOVs that occurred within the borders of the neighborhood. See the table showing the incidents in the residential area of the neighborhood (excludes incidents reported on commercial properties).

The number of BORs was down in 2010 compared to 2009. In 2009, there were 73 reported incidents of homes being burglarized. In 2010, the number was down to 54. In the last six years, the fewest number of home burglaries reported in Allandale was 33, which was in 2007. I have included a map showing the location of the reported 2010 incidents in Allandale. There does not appear to be a particular area of the neighborhood that has been particularly hard hit.

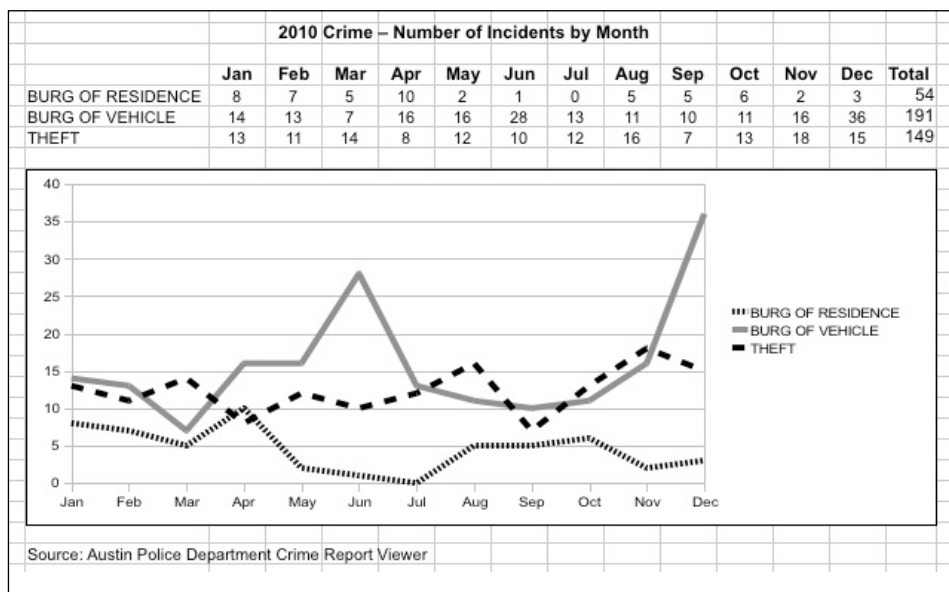
The graph shows a month-by-month count of the incidents reported to the Austin Police Department (APD) for 3 of the top 4 crimes in Allandale. BOVs took a significant jump in December, whereas the highest number of BORs occurred in months of January and April.

All of the crime data in this article is from the Austin Police Department's

2005-2010 Allandale Crime Stats – Number of Reported Crimes							
Crime Information by Spatial Search							
Search: Neighborhood Association Search							
Name: Allandale Neighborhood Association							
Crime	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	% Change 2009-10
BURGLARY OF VEH	196	154	148	140	167	191	14%
THEFT	150	137	125	151	119	149	25%
LEAVING THE SCENE CRASH/ACCIDE	15	78	88	65	70	55	-21%
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	36	42	33	42	73	54	-26%
FAMILY DISTURBANCE	29	35	48	43	46	40	-13%
DWI	14	49	65	52	30	39	30%
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	117	83	65	64	54	38	-30%
HARASSMENT	16	43	40	43	38	38	0%
BURGLARY NON RESIDENCE	29	43	45	45	25	32	28%
CRIMINAL TRESPASS	5	27	18	30	19	28	47%
PUBLIC INTOXICATION	7	20	23	18	21	27	29%
SUSPICIOUS PERSON	5	15	16	23	30	27	-10%
CRIMINAL TRESPASS/TRANSIENT		3	8	5	10	24	140%
DISTURBANCE/OTHER	8	14	21	41	27	24	-11%
CUSTODY ARREST TRAFFIC WARR	3	18	9	9	17	23	35%
WARR ARREST NON TRAFFIC	2	15	5	12	23	23	0%
GRAFFITI	3	7	16	13	15	22	47%
FOUND PROP	4	17	15	22	13	18	38%
LOST PROP	7	40	18	20	23	17	-26%
THEFT OF BICYCLE	1	4	6	6	8	17	113%

Source Austin Police Department Crime Report Viewer

2005-2010 Top Crimes in Allandale



2010 Incidents by Month

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online Crime Viewer "Crime Report Search." APD recently updated the viewer, making it easy for anyone to look up crimes by neighborhood or address or user-defined geographic areas in Austin. I have posted this article to the web site (www.allandalereporter.org), with a link to

APD's Crime Viewer. Feel free to share your insights after studying the data by posting a comment below the article on the web site.

As many of you know, Allandale has a very active and ever-growing neighborhood watch program led by the Allandale

Neighborhood Watch Coordinator, Laura DiCarlo (see article on next page). You can find out about the program or about becoming a block captain by emailing Laura at lbdicarlo@yahoo.com. ❖

Search Type:	Neighborhood			
Name:	Allandale Neighborhood Association			
Date Range:	01/01/2010 - 12/31/2010			
Type:	BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE			
Count:	54			
Crime	Street	Date	Time	Location
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	63XX NASCO DR	01/08/10	10:20:00 AM	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	27XX PEGRAM AVE	01/15/10	02:27:00 PM	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	26XX PEGRAM AVE	01/17/10	12:10:00 PM	BUSINESS / OTHER
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	27XX NORTHLAND DR	01/19/10	04:46:00 PM	BUSINESS / OTHER
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	48XX WESTFIELD DR	01/22/10	04:28:00 PM	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	59XX MARILYN DR	01/27/10	05:12:00 PM	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	45XX FINLEY DR	01/27/10	05:29:00 PM	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	58XX CARY DR	01/28/10	04:16:00 PM	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	58XX BULLARD DR	02/06/10	05:25:00 PM	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	5XXX WESTFIELD DR	02/09/10	08:05:00 PM	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	6XXX WOODVIEW AVE	02/11/10	11:18:00 AM	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	48XX WEST PARK DR	02/12/10	05:46:00 PM	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	7XXX DAUGHERTY ST	02/13/10	01:40:00 PM	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	66XX ARGENTIA RD	02/22/10	01:01:00 PM	PARKING LOTS / GARAGE
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	73XX DAUGHERTY ST	02/26/10	04:46:00 PM	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	23XX NORTH LOOP BLVD	03/05/10	10:03:00 AM	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	33XX PINECREST DR	03/10/10	06:01:00 PM	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	28XX FOSTER LN	03/15/10	11:17:00 AM	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	56XX SHOAL CREEK BLVD	03/15/10	02:44:00 PM	BUSINESS / OTHER
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	59XX RICKEY DR	03/26/10	10:42:00 PM	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	76XX NORTHCROSS DR	04/05/10	05:17:00 AM	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	66XX DAUGHERTY ST	04/06/10	03:02:00 PM	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	55XX MONTVIEW ST	04/07/10	05:20:00 PM	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	31XX CARLISLE DR	04/12/10	12:39:00 PM	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	69XX DAUGHERTY ST	04/16/10	11:10:00 AM	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	6XXX NASCO DR	04/16/10	01:38:00 PM	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	64XX CARY DR	04/18/10	12:09:00 AM	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	55XX BURNET RD	04/18/10	06:06:00 PM	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	24XX SHOALMONT DR	04/24/10	03:00:00 PM	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	26XX 48TH ST	04/26/10	12:14:00 PM	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	23XX NORTH LOOP BLVD	05/19/10	01:43:00 PM	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	68XX DAUGHERTY ST	05/20/10	11:08:00 AM	BUSINESS / OTHER
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	5XXX STRASS DR	06/06/10	12:30:00 PM	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	77XX NORTHCROSS DR	08/06/10	09:10:00 AM	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	45XX BULL CREEK RD	08/14/10	09:30:00 PM	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	54XX MONTVIEW ST	08/21/10	04:14:00 AM	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	33XX YELLOWPINE TER	08/26/10	05:18:00 PM	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	5XXX WEST PARK DR	08/30/10	07:30:00 PM	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	31XX HUNT TRL	09/10/10	01:29:00 PM	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	77XX SHOAL CREEK BLVD	09/13/10	07:49:00 AM	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	29XX WHITEWAY DR	09/19/10	03:25:00 AM	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	24XX WHITE HORSE TRL	09/20/10	02:43:00 PM	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	65XX TREADWELL BLVD	09/27/10	10:47:00 PM	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	61XX BULLARD DR	10/02/10	04:12:00 PM	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	65XX GREAT NORTHERN BLVD	10/08/10	06:04:00 PM	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	33XX PINECREST DR	10/13/10	02:04:00 PM	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	68XX DAUGHERTY ST	10/18/10	11:02:00 PM	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	74XX SHOAL CREEK BLVD	10/28/10	12:02:00 PM	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	59XX BULL CREEK RD	10/28/10	05:47:00 PM	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	32XX STARDUST DR	11/11/10	07:48:00 AM	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	59XX MARILYN DR	11/11/10	04:47:00 PM	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	27XX CAVILEER AVE	12/01/10	08:25:00 AM	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	24XX SONORA CT	12/07/10	03:40:00 PM	RESIDENCES
BURGLARY OF RESIDENCE	66XX ARGENTIA RD	12/20/10	08:21:00 AM	RESIDENCES

Burglary of Residence Stats 2010

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Neighborhood Watch

Laura DiCarlo

The good news is that there was just one Burglary of Residence (BOR) recorded in December, but there have been 4 to date in January (as of January 28, 2011). Streets where there have been BORs in the past couple of months include Argentia, Bullard, Westfield Dr., and Lawnmont. There were 6 Burglary of Vehicles (BOVs) in December and 4 so far this month, according to *krimelabb.com*. Streets include Northcross Dr., Pinewood Terrace, Greenlawn, Carlisle, Carleen, Shoal Creek, Twin Oaks, and N. Fresco. There were 2 auto thefts in December – one on Bullard and one on W. North Loop Blvd. There has been 1 so far this month – on Foster Lane. There were a few thefts as well, including items taken from open garages.

Bullard Dr. has had more than its share of crime. There was a BOR earlier this month in which the burglars broke a back window and rummaged through drawers. Recently, someone entered an unlocked house on Bullard and stole an X-Box gaming system. The auto theft from December was the first incident in this chain, and hopefully there will be no fur-

ther significant criminal activity on Bullard for some time. Neighbors are talking about meeting and perhaps creating “patrols” for the street.

The Allandale Neighborhood Watch program has had a couple activities since the writing of the December newsletter, and we have plans for a “How to be Neighborhood Crime Analyst” seminar with *krimelabb.com*’s Jack Darby Saturday, January 29th from 2 - 3 p.m. at North Village Library.

We had a successful Graffiti and Trash Clean-up Saturday, January 22nd from 2 - 4 p.m. Thanks to Allandale Neighborhood Association Green Spaces Chair Linnea Lemon for her help and to Danny Castilleja and Brian Block at Parks and Recreation for providing rags, cleaner, gloves, and trash bags. About 10 individuals and families met at NW Park to help clean up in the park, as well as elsewhere in Allandale. We invited the owners of the putt putt course to come paint over the graffiti on the Burnet site during our work day. Dave Richards and Pete Garcia did so happily and said they are in the process of prepping the land with hopes to be open by May 2011. If you ever see graffiti please call it in to 311 (so graffiti abatement will come clean it up) and ask

the 311 operator to transfer you to non-emergency so you can make a police report. APD is data-driven and we need to call in all break-ins, graffiti, etc. whenever they occur.

By the time you read this, the Feb-

ruary 1st Commander’s Forum will have already occurred, and we will have already met our new APD

District Representatives (DRs). Allandale is now split – south of 2222 is in Baker 3, and that area is served by Officer Rolando Gutierrez (formerly north Allandale and further north). North of 2222 is in IDA 4 sector, and is served by someone new to Allandale, Officer Gary Griffin. We also have new detectives working our burglary cases as well. Thanks to outgoing DR Officer Josh Metteauer and Detective David Knutson. Here is contact information for our current DRs:

Baker 3 Officer Rolando Gutierrez – 974-5998 or rolando.gutierrez@ci.austin.tx.us

IDA 4 Officer Gary Griffin – 974-8392 or gary.griffin@ci.austin.tx.us

The Citizen Led Austin Safety partnership (CLASP) will have had its city-wide meeting February 5th, and steering committee members have been busy helping neighborhoods set up block watches and patrols.

Please make sure to always keep your eyes and ears open and call 911 if you see anything suspicious. The latest BOV occurred on Twin Oaks in the middle of the afternoon on a weekday. A slim jim was used, which APD has said means a professional job.

As always, I need more block captains and patrols so please contact me if interested.

lbdicarlo@yahoo.com or 323-6929 ❖



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The Lamar Fine Arts Academy is on its Way!

Yvonne Darrab Steckel

Lamar Fine Arts Academy Designation Team

On December 15, 2010, Austin ISD officially announced the launch of the Lamar Fine Arts Academy in the *Austin*

Planning is

underway, and

the Academy will

open for the school

year 2012 - 13

for entering

6th graders

curriculum available. This February, AISD district staff, McCallum and Lamar Fine Arts teachers, and community members are going on two exploratory trips to Fine Arts Academies in Dallas and Houston to explore curriculum options. All staff will be trained in Kodaly creative teaching methods for every subject. Staff, parents, and community members are thrilled to pursue a vision of a 7-year high-level Fine Arts curriculum through the feeder pattern of Lamar Fine Arts Academy and McCallum Fine Arts Academy.

Lamar currently offers orchestra, band, choir, theatre arts, and visual arts courses all three years. Lamar also offers classical guitar in 7th and 8th grade and will begin a Steel Drum class in 2011 - 2012. We are consulting with McCallum High School on how to expand Lamar's offerings.

We would like to thank the community for supporting the Lamar Fine Arts Academy designation by attending the AISD board meeting in January 2010, writing letters, and calling board members. Special thanks are extended to Donna Beth McCormick for speaking on behalf of the Lamar Fine Arts Academy in January 2010 and in August 2010. All the hard work paid off! ❖

Meet Sara Sternberg, ANA Executive Committee Member

Tom Linehan

Sara Sternberg was elected to the Allandale Neighborhood Association (ANA) Executive Committee in September. She is one of four recently-elected members. What follows is a short Q&A with Sara designed to acquaint you with her.

How long have you been in Austin and in Allandale?

I have been in Austin 9 years and in Allandale 9 months.

What made you decide to join the ANA Executive Committee?

I think it is important to be involved with the community in which you live. Hopefully, I can help contribute to the neighborhood and learn some things while being on the Committee.

How long have you been involved with the neighborhood association and in what capacity?

I have been on the ANA Executive Committee since September.



ANA Executive Committee Member Sara Sternberg

What one or two things do you like most about Allandale?

I love walking my dogs through the neighborhood, there are so many beautiful homes and trees to look at.

If you had a good friend visit from out of town and this was their first time to Austin, where would you take them?

Trudy's and Lady Bird Lake.

What was the last CD you loaded on to your iPod/iPhone?

Rockabye Baby! Lullaby Renditions of Bob Marley (for my infant son). ❖

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Getting Into Dancers Shape

Laura Dooley

It's 1975, and a four-year-old little girl tells her mom that she wants to take dance classes. So this mom takes her little girl to the local dance school. The dance teacher asks the girl to do a few steps, including tapping the corners of a linoleum tile with her toes. Well, this little girl was a bit on the uncoordinated side, and she was unable to execute the task as requested. The instructor proceeded to tell the mother that perhaps this was not the right time for the little girl to take dance lessons in her studio. Exit a very sad little girl and an flabbergasted mom.

Bitter much? Yes, that four-year-old was me. And I've been wary of anything with "dance" in the name ever since. Let's just say that my "uncoordinated" gene stuck with me. (Wow, retelling that story was cathartic!)

Fast-forward 36 years. I'm driving south on Burnet and on my right I notice the eye-catching "5350" address. Seems

like every time I drive by there's something new, and this time was no exception. The name "Dancers Shape" graced the entrance of a new business. After an initial shudder as I remembered my experience as a young potential dancer, I decided to learn more about this new local business.

I emailed Dancers Shape to inquire about class times for a beginner who had a slight fear factor about dancing. Jennifer McCamish, the owner of Dancers Shape, set me at ease and explained that her studio was definitely about fitness, not dance. My interest now piqued, she suggested I try the Shape class on a Wednesday at 9:30.

Visions of ballet shoes and leotards swam through my head as I asked her what I should wear. She told me that yoga-type pants and tops work best, and no footwear is required, just bare feet. I breathed a sigh of relief.

Parking at 5350 Burnet is easy; there's plenty of space in the garage for retail shoppers and exercisers. I was warmly welcomed into the studio by Jennifer and another instructor, Lisa. The studio itself



Jennifer McCamish, owner of Dancers Shape at 5350 Burnet

is bright and inviting, filled with colorful Austin-themed pop-art. There's a changing room and lockers available (but you do need to bring your own lock).

I entered the studio space and was welcomed by two Dancers Shape regulars. One woman, Megan Holsten, said that she has taken two different classes –

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Shape and Sport – and both offer a great workout. However, she warned me, “If your muscles aren’t burning every time, you’re not doing it right.” I soon discovered that more prophetic words have rarely been spoken.

The studio filled up with about 15 female class participants. The instructor, Jennifer, joined us with a headset microphone and started us on a one-hour workout accompanied by high-energy songs.

Over the course of the next hour, we did barre work, floor work, and mat work. Jennifer led us through a number of routines as a group, and also came around to offer personalized attention with regard to proper form.

The studio has a sprung floor, which means that it absorbs shocks, giving it a softer feel. Another class member, Ali Ryan, told me that she has been coming to Dancers Shape since it opened three months ago. She told me that one of the reasons she likes it is that, in addition to being good workout, the floor is easy on the knees.

The hour-long workout was challenging, but manageable. I definitely worked each muscle group to fatigue, and certainly felt it the next day!

Jennifer said that her clientele is diverse. While it’s mostly women, she has had a few men take her classes. Her own background makes her well-suited to run a studio like this. She has a degree in dance from UT, and was a professional dancer in New York City for 13 years, many of those years as a Radio City Rockette.

When she returned to Austin, she saw a need for effective, specialized classes. “Austin is a very active city,” she said, but there wasn’t much out there offering the type of classes that she has designed at Dancers Shape. She has used her dance background to create a unique workout appropriate for even those “non-dancers” among us.

She currently offers seven different classes focusing on different types of workouts. Dancers Shape seems to be amassing quite a following, myself included!

Class times vary; see website for details at <http://www.dancersshape.com/>
5350 Burnet Road, Suite #7
(512) 382-9150 ❖

Tree Pruning Workshop

Peggy Maceo

The ANA sponsored Basic Tree Pruning workshop at Shoal Creek Nursery on Jan. 22 was a great success, with 40 people attending. Allandale and Rosedale residents listened as Don Gardner, consulting arborist and host of Tree Talk on KLBJ, enlightened us on how pruning affects our trees. Don showed us pruning techniques, tools, various cuts, and explained good tree care. More importantly he always told us why: Why we cut in a certain way, why we mulch, how and why we water trees, etc. Don’s expertise comes from 25 years of experience. But it was obvious it also came from someone who loves and respects trees.

Some comments after the talk: “This was fantastic. I am so glad I came.” “I have learned about pruning but also about good tree care.” “Great workshop.” ❖

Enjoy Allandale—
get to know your neighbors



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March 31st from 1:30 - 3:30pm
Refreshments served

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Gardening in Allandale

Ginger Soule

Hello fellow Allandale gardeners. How's your soil-food-web? Didn't know you had one?

Beneath our lawns, mulch, etc., there exists a world of beneficial bacteria, earthworms, micro-arthropods, protozoa, nematodes (yes, there are beneficial ones) and fungi. In particular, the role of Micorrhizal fungi in healthy plant growth is both critical and fascinating and is at the very heart of organic growing. These fungi carry on a symbiotic relationship with plant roots. Generic micorrhizal fungi benefit all plants, while some are specific to one plant only, such as those associated with oak trees. Micorrhizal fungi require regular applications of compost to flourish and are easily killed by chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Micorrhizal fungi filaments penetrate the roots of plants, from which they take carbohydrates to sustain themselves. Extending their filaments many feet beyond the plant to which they're attached, they take up raw minerals, processing them and giving them as nutrients to the plant. If

this subject piques your interest, you may want to explore the website www.soilfoodweb.org which deals with Dr. Elaine Ingham's research on soil science.

Austin is fortunate to be the home of the oldest continuously-meeting organic

club in the U.S. Meetings are educational, and are held the first Monday of each month (except Dec.) at 7:30 p.m. at Zilker Botanical Garden. Visitors are always welcome. ❖

Leaves of Three, Let it Be

Keith Savage

Take a walk around Lake Lady Bird, and you'll discover Austin is plagued with a three-leafed menace known as poison ivy. When my wife and I moved to Allandale 10 years ago, the previous homeowners left us a little going away present: A giant Hackberry tree wrapped with poison ivy vines as thick as garden hoses. I've been fighting its offspring ever since.

Know thy enemy

Watch for clusters of three green leaves, turning reddish, yellow, or orange in the fall; sometimes with whitish berries. The plant can take many appearances: bush and vines are the most common forms. A close look at one of the leaves

will reveal an asymmetry between each side of the leaf. The vines have a hairy appearance.



Poison ivy

Feeling Itchy?

The oil coating the leaves and stem of the poison ivy plant causes severe itching and blisters. When the poison ivy oil, called urushiol, is absorbed by skin cells it causes an allergic reaction. The body's immune system attacks the oil-tainted skin cells. As skin cells start dying, blisters and severe itching result. This only happens after the immune system has learned to recognize urushiol. Even people who consider themselves immune to



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poison ivy will develop susceptibility after repeated exposures.

Stop the Itch

The oil takes time to absorb and bond to skin cells. If the oil is removed within several hours, the unpleasant effects of urushiol can be minimized. First, wash as soon as possible after exposure. Use an oil-cutting detergent such as Dawn. This is more effective than soap. Even better are special poison ivy washes such as Tecnu. Removing as much of the oil as soon as possible is the key. Be sure to launder any exposed clothing in hot water. The oil is quite tenacious and can remain potent for over a year. Sometimes pets can carry the oil on their fur and expose their owners multiple times.

You got poison ivy: Now what?

Wash as directed above to avoid additional contamination. Itching and blistering usually begin a day or two after contact. Most store-bought remedies are borderline worthless. The old standby calamine lotion is completely worthless. If you find some in the medicine cabinet, throw it in trash.

What works, then?

The best OTC product on the market is called Zanafel. You can find it at CVS, Walgreens, or Wal-Mart for \$39/ounce. Pricey, but it works. In fact, nothing else compares. It chemically chelates with urushiol in 2 different ways to de-bond it from your skin. This is great when your face starts itching and you are really desperate. Buy some on Ebay to save money. My first line of defense is Tecnu wash \$15/32oz. If you wash thoroughly using Tecnu within hours of exposure, you can usually get away without blistering. If I notice itching and blistering starting, I will still wash with Tecnu and then treat with Zanafel.

What if my whole body is covered... And I can't afford 10 tubes of Zanafel?

If you fell into a thicket of poison ivy and your whole body is breaking out in a terrible rash, then it is time to go to the doctor and get steroid cream or a steroid injection. Steroids are powerful drugs that can cause your body to stop attacking itself almost immediately. Skip OTC Cortaid. This weak steroid cream is marginally effective. Smear some on if you have some, just be prepared for minimal improvement. Without treatment, poison ivy blistering will take 2 weeks to fully heal.

What about temporarily relief?

Use hot water. Spray hot-as-you-can-stand water on the rash. The itching sensation will become incredibly intense, but then fade as your skin's histamine receptors become depleted. The itching will stop for an hour or two. Repeat hot water treatment as necessary. This trick alone can help maintain your sanity.

And finally: don't scratch – yeah, right. Good luck! ❖

ALLANDALE IS WIRED

Current Allandale Listserve

Membership: 1103

(information about joining the listserve is on the Allandale web site, www.allandalereporter.org)

Average number of daily visits to the Allandale web site: 60

Invitation to Allandale Seniors from Covenant Presbyterian Church

Senior Activities Day

1st Tuesday of the month, March 1, April 5 and May 3

Covenant Presbyterian Church, Fellowship and Education Building

Program format

10 – 11:45 a.m. . Games, bingo, jigsaw puzzles

12 – 1 p.m. Lunch provided

1 – 3:00 p.m. Movie

Donations are accepted for the buffet lunch which is served at noon. Reservations are required for lunch and can be made by calling 454-5231 up until 11:00 a.m. on the Friday immediately before the Activities Day. Please call Covenant Presbyterian Church (3003 Northland Drive) at 454-5231 if you have any questions.

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SqFt Range	Category	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
<1000	# Sold Properties	16	21	18	7	10
	Avg Sold Price	\$164,696	\$183,360	\$163,464	\$150,229	\$196,630
	Avg Days On Market	41	69	125	104	81
1000-1499	# Sold Properties	58	48	47	40	37
	Avg Sold Price	\$256,999	\$280,734	\$284,063	\$276,646	\$263,873
	Avg Days On Market	32	36	53	55	37
1500-1999	# Sold Properties	56	54	53	52	45
	Avg Sold Price	\$295,052	\$346,705	\$332,622	\$320,287	\$325,301
	Avg Days On Market	35	38	52	72	74
2000-2499	# Sold Properties	28	27	24	22	23
	Avg Sold Price	\$341,786	\$385,824	\$419,719	\$360,927	\$372,615
	Avg Days On Market	60	63	69	92	100
2500-3000	# Sold Properties	7	9	15	8	5
	Avg Sold Price	\$346,843	\$463,281	\$517,267	\$541,500	\$518,000
	Avg Days On Market	73	30	92	174	231

*Data provided by ACTRIS - deemed accurate but not guaranteed.



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Austin Art Space

Tom Linehan

Allandale, there is art close by, and I strongly recommend you to check it out! Austin Art Space at Northcross Center is a small but wonderful studio, with high ceilings and natural light well-suited for displaying art. The artists who exhibit there are very talented local artists. Currently, there are 9 artists with works on display. The gallery space is divided up by artist, with the front gallery space devoted to a sponsored exhibit or juried shows. I met with the gallery manager, Kelli Montgomery, on a Sunday afternoon to get a look at the space and find out more about it. The gallery is closed on Sundays, but she agreed to meet me there that afternoon. Kelli is the director of the Austin Visual Arts Association, a 33-year old nonprofit that manages the artist-run gallery co-op. Many of the artists who exhibit there live in the surrounding neighborhoods. Kelli, although not one of the artists exhibiting there, lives nearby in Brentwood.

The gallery is a casual, comfortable place to view art. People are encouraged to drop in and check out the artists'

work during gallery hours. There are not so many pieces on display that you feel it's too much to absorb in a single visit; however, you may find yourself returning to take a second or third look at some of the works. I am not an art expert, but I very much enjoyed seeing many of the works on display. The pieces vary from traditional landscapes to avant-garde works, and the media you will find include oil paintings, photography, watercolors, mixed-media, and more.

Austin Art Space is well-suited for artists and art lovers alike. Because it is a co-op, the rent for artists is reasonable, making the prices of their work more affordable than what you would find at a traditional gallery.



Kelli Montgomery in front of Austin Art Space Gallery at Northcross Center

from the new Wal-Mart, is more spacious and has plenty of parking.

With the gallery so close by it is very convenient for Allandale residents and would make for a nice Saturday afternoon outing. Gallery hours are Friday and Saturday 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. and by appointment, or you can drop by and take a chance one of the resident artists is working in the studio.

This month, Austin Art Space is hosting a juried exhibit by Dr. Christopher Adejumo, UT Visual Arts Professor. The show is called "For the Love of Art." The theme is based on each participating artist's interpretation of "what is love" or "the impact of love." The show runs from Feb. 12 - Mar. 5, 2011.

You can learn more about Austin Art Space at their web site: www.austinartspace.com or even better, drop by. The address is 7739 Northcross Drive, Suite Q. ❖

Austin Art Space has been at Northcross Center for three years. Prior to that, it was in a smaller space in Brentwood on Koenig. The Northcross Center space, located across the street

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Gullett Good News

Stephanie Schulz

2011 is the beginning of an even more environmentally friendly Gullett. The school's Green Team announced that Gullett is up and running with AISD's new recycling contract and now has single-stream recycling for items used on the school campus. The school has added a recycling dumpster for school use only, and every classroom has a recycling bin to place the following items:

- Plastic bottles, tubs, takeout containers (anything with a triangle symbol)
- Glass bottles and jars
- Metal cans and containers
- Paper
- Magazines
- Newsprint
- Cardboard
- Boxboard

As part of Gullett's new recycling program, the school will no longer take items, other than Styrofoam (see below), from the community. In the past, Gullett

has collected paper and aluminum cans as fundraisers, but will no longer do this.

The fifth graders will run Gullett's compost program. The students will start slowly, but in April will help implement new, more extensive composting guidelines in conjunction with the AISD composting program. The school plans to use the compost to benefit its many gardens.

Gullett recently started recycling Styrofoam as a service to the Gullett and Allandale communities. The Styrofoam collection box is outside the back door, near the faculty parking lot.

Finally, the school recently put up "No Idling Zone" signs to further discourage those dropping off their kids (for school and for sports on our block) from idling their cars.

Kinder-Ramp Ramp-up

After years in the making, the kindergartners and special needs classes are seeing some serious progress on the kinder-ramp. Gullett has now collected the funds and gathered the people to add therapy swings and other therapy playground pieces, special picnic tables, and an aviary. In the future, the school hopes to add bleachers and an amphitheater to the area.

Areas like the kindergarten ramp, the beautiful butterfly gardens, and our new entrance ramp only stay nice if our parents and staff continue to work to keep them that way. Gullett hosts several grounds days during the year – including one on Feb. 26 – and also has a small cadre of willing volunteers who show up every Wednesday morning. Thanks to our gardening helpers!

March: In Like a Lion

Gullett's Annual Silent Auction will take place on March 5 at the school. Just like last year, students accompanying their parents to the event will be able to watch a movie in the cafeteria while the parents make bids on their favorite items in the gym. Those attending can expect music, food, and camaraderie ... as well as a lot of really great deals. All the proceeds from the event go toward PTA projects to benefit the school and students.

The always-popular Sports Day is scheduled for March 10 and 11. With the increasing student population, the

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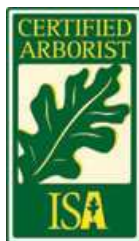
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event will cover two days for the second year in a row. Kindergartners, first, and second graders will take part in the fun and games on Thursday, while third, fourth, and fifth graders will get their chance on Friday.

"I wish every day could be Sports Day," said one first grader, fondly recalling last year's event. "It is so much fun I'd rather do Sports Day than anything! I especially like sack races ... and snacks!"

Sports Day leads the Geckos into Spring Break, which this year is March 14 - 18. Should Sports Day be rained out, it will be postponed to March 24 - 25.

Computer Lab-science

Gullett's favorite computer lab teacher, Ann Jarriel, is taking a one semester sabbatical. In her absence, the Geckos will welcome a new computer lab person this month. The half-time person will create lesson plans for the teachers, who will be responsible for leading their classes.

Jarriel is also responsible for running the Yearbook Club. Christine Lehman, the mother of a fourth grader, will take that over. Mary LeWare will continue to do the layout and make sure the yearbook gets out the door.

Read on!

As this issue of the Allandale Neighbor goes to print, the Geckos were reading, reading, reading. The BookSpring Read-A-Thon started January 24. Students were challenged to read as much as they could over the two-week period to raise money to buy books for kids who cannot afford their own. The Geckos have won the competition for the past five years and were determined to do it once again this year. Check the next issue to find out if the Geckos were able to make it six straight as the BookSpring champion.

Due to her outstanding work on the program, Librarian Kay Gooch was named the first "Legend" by Recognize Good in 2010. View a video about Kay, the Gullett community, and last year's win at <http://apps.facebook.com/recognizegoodlegend/>.

Key dates for Gullett Geckos:

Feb 18 and 21: No School
Feb. 28: Third Grade Program: The Austin Music Scene
March 10 - 11: Sports Day
March 14 - 18: Spring Break
March 29: Second Grade Program: Goin' Bugz
April 7: Family Fun Game Night ❖

Save the date!

Saturday, March 5 is the Gullett Silent Auction and Family Fun Night from 6:00-9:00 in the evening. This event is open to the community! If you are a parent of Gullett kids, you can drop them off at no charge in the Gullett cafeteria to watch movies and play games. Meanwhile, you get to stroll down the hall to the gym to bid on cool stuff donated by individuals and businesses here in Allandale and all over Austin. Tickets are \$15 for adults, and all proceeds will benefit programs at Gullett.

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Dedication for Refurbished Greenhouse

Laura DiCarlo

Friday, March 25, 2011 – Gullett Elementary will hold a dedication ceremony for the refurbished greenhouse on the school grounds. The refurbish was made possible by the Linda Camden Fund. Linda Camden was a 5th grade teacher at Gullett, and when she passed away a few years ago a fund was started in her honor. If interested in attending, please contact Gullett PTA Grounds Chair Laura DiCarlo at 323-6929 or lbdi-carlo@yahoo.com. Save the date! Time to be announced. ❖

Restaurant Review: Wild About Harry's

Greg Silver

Wild About Harry's, at 2525 W. Anderson Lane, is a wonderful addition to the rejuvenated Northcross Mall. Every age bracket will find something to like there. It takes a pretty amazing hot

dog to convince me to eat one any time other than the Fourth of July or Labor Day. This'll do just fine.

The restaurant has very colorful décor, with an extremely eye-appealing mural on the wall. You'll have no problem unwinding amidst the ambiance no matter what the stress level of your job. A big part of enjoying a restaurant visit is going out the door with the sense the staff did everything in its power to lighten your load. Not once did Wild About Harry's leave me feeling unattended. Every step of the way the counter help made sure I got the most out of the experience, right down to asking me whether I wanted my custard served at the same time as my dog or after I'd consumed the dog. Now that's what I call pampering.

If their Knox Street hot dog is an example of what they consider the best they can do, their "A-game" wiener, then the sales rate should be off the charts in no time. The Knox Street is topped with Thousand Island dressing, sauerkraut, and Swiss cheese. Good for them for mincing the kraut rather than letting it dangle over the sides – makes for a more enticing visual. The hot dog's snap is beautiful; it puts up just enough of a

fight before surrendering and has a nice blend of flavor. This was my first cheese topped dog, and it makes me want to experience another one real soon.

One of the value meal combos goes for anywhere from \$4.99 if you choose the



Wild About Harry's on Anderson Lane

Lonesome Dog (mustard & ketchup only), to \$7.79 for a variation such as the Southwest Firedog, which is topped with Cayenne pepper. The aforementioned Knox Street, if ordered as part of a combo, will run you \$6.99. Trust me. You won't regret it.

Combo options consist of fries, cole slaw, or chips. Forget about restraint and go for the fries – they're not too thin and have just enough crispness. You'll have to summon extra willpower to resist eating a whole basket. Luckily it's the holiday season, so I subconsciously chucked my willpower in the waste basket by the door.

Believe the press clippings which surround the custard – it has an excellent flavor. The options rotate, and on this day Dreamsicle and Egg Nog were among the options. You won't go wrong with Vanilla, their top seller. I loaded my cup with strawberries and waffle bits, two of many add-ons you can select. Wash that all down with a soft drink chilled with shredded ice, and you'll not only leave happy but not pining for the pocket change you cobbled together to satisfy your dog urge. So happy am I with the fare that I'll even praise the fact that the ice in the soft drink machine is microscopic (think Dippin' Dots) instead of

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dispensed in monstrous cubes which force you to guesstimate how long it'll take you to pile on cubes before you have runoff issues. An instance of astute planning.

Greg is extremely wild about Wild About Harry's. Won't be long before you'll be saying the same. ❖

Dog Talk: "Expensive" Tests

Cheryl Silver

From time to time someone will ask for a recommendation for a veterinarian for their new pet. There are often many responses, some of which mention that the veterinarian they use does not perform a lot of expensive and unnecessary tests on their pets, and that is presented as a positive characteristic. I will start off by saying that I am a big believer in testing but it needs to make sense to me, and that is why bring up the following comments.

I want to let folks know about a wonderful book by Dr. Nancy Kay, DVM, called *Speaking for Spot: Be the Advocate Your Dog Needs to Live a Happy, Healthy, Longer Life*.

The premise of the book is your responsibility to be part of a partnership with your veterinarian and to actually communicate in a meaningful way with your veterinarian. This talk should include, at a minimum, a two-way dialogue where you are sharing your ques-

tions, your concerns, and your observations. This includes asking about any test the veterinarian recommends – asking about what will be learned from the test, its relevance to the issue at hand, and how much the test costs. Also, ask upfront what the next step(s) will be depending upon the outcome of the previous test, and ask about costs, etc. Finally, ask about options/alternatives and possible consequences if alternative steps are taken.

Ask yourself if you are actually partnering with your veterinarian or if you are taking a more passive role; ask if your veterinarian is open to being your partner for your dog. Remember, you can always make a change – you want the best for your dog and for the dollars you spend to be of value to your dog's health.

IMPORTANT: If you feel you would like to work on re-defining your relationship with your veterinarian and are concerned about how to start that dialogue, I would be happy to chat with you and to give you some tips that ideally will lead to a constructive and positive outcome.

I am a big believer in the value of testing – routine testing when your dog is in good health as well as testing when you are trying to determine the reason for a problem your dog is having. The former can provide you with baseline information about your dog's health status; the latter can hopefully get you to a diagnosis in an efficient manner, but in all fairness, some things are complicated and not every path will get you to the answer immediately. One of my own dogs was just diagnosed with a quite rare parasite-induced heart condition that is most common in the poorer communities

of Brazil! Go figure – certainly that was not at the top of anybody's list of guesses causing her health issues, but testing got us to the answer and now the medication she is on is helping tremendously.

To get the greatest value from testing, as mentioned before, be clear on why the test is being given and what can be learned from it. Second, be sure and get clear copies of all your dog's testing results and keep them in a file. Compare these test results over time to look for trends – changes in values that could be indicative of problems or of normal signs of aging.

While this has been brief, the critical message to take home is that you need to talk with and partner with your veterinarian.

Don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions: csilver2@austin.rr.com; 512/454-7219 ❖

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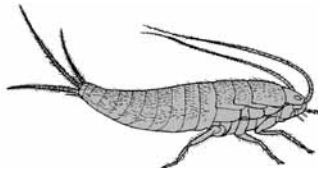
Silverfish

Wizzie Brown

Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program
Specialist

I recently noticed silverfish lurking in my house after I put away my holiday decorations, so I'm sure others may have the same problem. Silverfish can eat and stain books, fabrics, food, and wallpaper, but are often considered being more of a nuisance than a pest. These insects have flattened carrot-shaped bodies with three long "tails" that come off the tip of the abdomen. The body is covered with fine scales that give them a silver sheen. Immatures look just like the adults, only smaller in size.

Usually silverfish are not seen by homeowners because they tend to be active at night. They can commonly be found in attics, closets, or near bookcases. They will often be found behind baseboards or around door and window casings. Silverfish feed on starchy foods like paper, flour, oats, or glue.



Tips for managing silverfish:

- Remove old books, papers, & magazines
- Store items in sealed plastic bags or containers
- Clean closets on a regular basis
- Reduce humidity with fans, air conditioning, or dehumidifiers
- Repair any water leaks
- Inspect all items before bringing them into the house
- Target treatments to where silverfish live – wall voids, closets, attics, behind baseboards, etc.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512/854-9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com ❖

Constable's Notebook

Constable Bruce Elfant

Last month while discussing the State budget deficit, I mentioned that one budget balancing strategy that state legislators have used is to require local governments to provide some services without providing funding. This practice, known as unfunded mandates, has cost local governments hundreds of millions of dollars and requires local officials to either raise property taxes to fund the mandates or cut other services. Unfunded mandates can significantly impact city and county budgets by limiting their discretion and can adversely affect local bond ratings.

Previous examples of unfunded mandates placed on local governments include the Indigent Health Care and Treatment Act that was passed in 1985, which required counties to provide up to 8% of a county's budget for indigent health care before being eligible for matching funds. In 2002, legislators passed an indigent care bill, known as the

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Fair Defense Act, which required counties to pick up 94% of the more than \$100 million cost of the act. In 2003, the Legislature, in an attempt to cut state costs, passed a massive reorganization of the state's health and human services agencies. Many state services were reduced, and as a result, more people with health and mental illness issues ended up being treated in hospital emergency rooms or county jails, which is the most expensive way to treat people. In 2003, the Legislature also cut by 65% the reimbursement to counties for the costs of visiting judges, which added nearly \$4 million in costs to Texas counties. In recent years, local officials have also had to pony up more money for road projects that used to be primarily state funded. There are many other examples, but per-

haps the largest example of the state shifting costs to local taxpayers is public education, where the state share, which once was 60% has dropped to 40%.

Already a number of bills have been filed this session that could further increase costs for local taxpayers. More than a dozen immigration bills have been filed, many of which would require more of local law enforcement officers and more local jail beds. Proposed cuts for mental health services would result in more people with mental illness sitting in jail and ending up at hospital emergency rooms. Sheriff Greg Hamilton has made clear his dissatisfaction that the Travis County jail also serves as Travis County's largest mental health institution.

Last month, Representative Burt Solomons filed a constitutional amendment,

HJR 56, which would restrict the Texas Legislature's authority to pass legislation that forces local governments to do something without paying for it. The Travis County Commissioners' Court has endorsed this legislation. Similar legislation has been filed many times, and state leaders, including the governor and Lt. governor, have expressed their support, but ending unfunded mandates has never even made it to the floor of either legislative chamber. And with a \$27 Billion state budget deficit facing them, unfunded mandates legislation is not likely to pass this year, either. State legislators might not tell you, but any mandates they pass this session will be funded – through local property tax increases forced by the State on cities and counties. ♦

Keep Austin Beautiful Clean Sweep is scheduled for Saturday, April 9, 9-11 AM. Come join neighbors, Lamar students and parents as we clean the Lamar MS grounds.

We will also be cleaning the sidewalk on White Rock and trimming a "clear zone" up to 6 ft over the sidewalk to prevent injuries. If you are a homeowner and have concerns about trimming, please contact tbd@tbd.com to give us feedback.



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McCallum High School's Sophomore of the Year

Tom Linehan

Members of the Golden Kiwanis Club of Austin met at the City Of Austin's Senior Activity Center on Monday, February 7 to recognize McCallum High School's Sophomore of the Year – Jake Whitefield. Jake is a member of the class of 2013 at McCallum High School, where he takes a full schedule of honors courses, is a member of the Latin Honor Society and holds a grade point average in the top 10% of his class. Jake was an offensive lineman on the McCallum Varsity Football Team that won the district 26-4A championship in the fall of 2010. Jake is now com-

peting on the JV baseball team at McCallum. Jake does volunteer work at the Angel House Soup Kitchen in Downtown Austin. The Golden Kiwanis Club of Austin awarded Jake a scholarship for his hard work and leadership at McCallum and his volunteer efforts in the community. Jake will now compete in the larger Sophomore of the Year competition across Texas and Oklahoma. ❖



PICTURED: left to right . . . Jake Whitefield, McCallum HS Sophomore of the Year, Flor Mota, McCallum HS Honors English Teacher, Colonel David Moore, Golden Kiwanis Club of Austin Board Member

Letters to the Editor: We'd love for readers to submit newsletter ideas, stories, and reactions to articles. allandaleneighbor@gmail.com

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